



OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONSORTIUM

HOLY CROSS
SAINT BERNADETTE
SAINT THOMAS MORE
SAINTS PETER & PAUL
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY

*A Collaboration of
Parishes, Schools, Parents and
Community Partners*

MAKING THE GRADE

NEWS FROM THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM



ANNUAL REPORT
EDITION
2019-2020



OUR STORY

8 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium was formed in 2012 as a collaboration of parishes, schools, parents and community partners working together to support Catholic education in southeast Omaha.

6 SCHOOLS

Holy Cross

Our Lady of Lourdes

St. Bernadette

Sts. Peter and Paul

St. Thomas More

Dual Language Academy

All helping each other achieve the highest quality academic standards in Christ-centered environments.

This report is produced by the Omaha Catholic School Consortium. We made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report. Please accept our apology if we have omitted anyone who contributed to our schools or misspelled a name. If you notice such an error, please notify our office so we may correct our records.

Mission

The Omaha Catholic School Consortium provides academic, administrative and financial support to its schools to ensure students have access to an exceptional education in a nurturing and culturally unique environment, where they are encouraged to explore their Catholic faith and become disciples of Christ. We are committed to Catholic education that will thrive in our community for generations to come.

Vision

We will be recognized as a sustainable model for Catholic education with schools that challenge students of many abilities to excel and become faith-filled leaders in service to God and others.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MESSAGE



This year marks a milestone year for the Omaha Catholic School Consortium and we have much to celebrate in 2020. Nine years ago our east Omaha parishes and schools began experiencing the impact of changing demographics as families relocated to the suburbs and immigrants moved into the neighborhood. Our Catholic schools in southeast Omaha experienced declining enrollment and diminishing financial resources. As a result, the archdiocese launched Promise 2020. It was an initiative that realigned area parishes and schools to better serve the Catholic families in southeast Omaha.

The impact of Promise 2020 has been profound. Our Catholic school students have benefited greatly, and the Consortium remains committed to providing accessible and affordable Catholic education to the families in southeast Omaha.

We are proud of our accomplishments to date and have ambitious goals as we look beyond Promise 2020.

A Promise to Grow

As of 2019-2020, our five original schools are flourishing and have moved beyond surviving, to thriving, as enrollment has trended upwards with an over 30% increase since our inception. This growth is unprecedented in a time when most small parish schools in working-class and urban neighborhoods across the nation are closing. While many schools across America are barely hanging on, Promise 2020 gave us the framework to build and enhance a sustainable model that supports our network of schools.

The Consortium model is a proven one. By centralizing tasks like payroll and HR, we achieve efficiencies, giving cost- and time-savings back to our schools. We believe our network of schools is key to our sustainability. And we remain committed to growing our schools through professional marketing to build community awareness and expand our digital presence.

A Promise to be Accountable and Transparent

The Consortium is built on sound governance, strong leadership, financial accountability and transparency, educational innovation and continuous improvement.

We are committed to:

- making a systemic shift from a traditional funding model to a stewardship model that is driven by partnerships and strategic investments from the community
- streamlining back-office functions to reduce overhead and administrative

costs, making tuition more affordable and Catholic education more accessible

A Promise to Innovate

We continue to jump-start our students' futures by implementing innovative academic programs and introducing cutting-edge curriculum in all of our Consortium schools. Our newest school, the Dual Language Academy, is the first of its kind in the archdiocese. This school is leading the way in innovation, academic results and community partnerships. We are proud to embrace the cultural diversity of this school as our English- and Spanish-speaking students learn side-by-side in this proven curriculum developed by Boston College.

We are committed to:

- increasing transparency from our schools with data-driven programs to allow for more reporting on the outcome of the investments that support Catholic education
- introducing new instructional models to deliver a premier academic experience for our students

A Promise to our Families and Pledge to our Faith

We provide students with a strong foundation in faith as they grow in their relationship with Jesus. Many of our parents choose a Consortium school because they desire for their child's education at school to be an extension of what they are being taught at home. We know from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that, "Catholic school students are more likely to pray daily, attend church more often, retain a Catholic identity as an adult and donate more to the Church."

We are committed to:

- keeping Catholic education affordable so families can help their children grow in their Catholic faith and in their relationship with Jesus
- creating a dynamic parish and school community where our families feel welcomed, loved, supported and have opportunities for fellowship, friendship and service

We look forward to everything that's possible in the 2020-2021 school year and thank our donors and friends for believing in us and keeping your promise to support Catholic education.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Blossom".

Tammy Blossom
Board Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Friends of the Consortium,

UNPRECEDENTED.

This is a word we heard many times in reference to the 2019-2020 school year. As we read the definition, *never known or done before*, it certainly seems like a fitting word to use as we reflect on the school year. In this unprecedented year, we all learned together. Partnerships were essential to the success of our school year. We partnered with parents in the education of their children; we partnered with donors who generously helped us provide more tuition assistance; and we partnered with our parishes as we all navigated how to best be communities of faith in a remote world. What we celebrate and call a success from the 2019-2020 school year may look a little different than what we called successes in past years, but we have grown! We are walking into 2020-2021 a united team with unwavering confidence.

UNITED.

I am proud to be part of the Consortium team; we are, indeed, a united group! 2020-2021 brings some changes in our leadership structure. In the spring, our board approved the hiring of an additional leadership position. The job descriptions were adjusted and two positions were approved: Executive Director and Education Director. I am proud to introduce Mike Goetz as our newly hired Executive Director. Mike comes to us with a business background and will be focused on operations, finance and development



Mike Goetz

for our Consortium schools. He has volunteered for Catholic schools for over 30 years and is committed to helping our Consortium schools continue to grow and excel. I, Chris Nelson, will continue to serve our schools as Education Director.

UNWAVERING.

As we move into the 2020-2021 school year, we all hold a little uncertainty about what the year will look like. We are, however, confident that we can provide our families with an educational option that will work for them. We will continue to strive for excellence in all we do. To all of you who have partnered with us in the past, and to all who will partner with us as we move forward, we thank you. We are honored to work with you in this great endeavor of bringing a faith-based quality education to the students we serve. We are grateful to all who help us keep that education affordable and accessible to the families of southeast Omaha. We recognize that it takes many to make our Consortium a success, and we are so very grateful to each and every one of you!

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chr Nelson".

Chris M. Nelson

2019-2020 Executive Director,
Omaha Catholic School Consortium

"I am honored and humbled to be part of the Consortium community, which includes you and other generous donors, all dedicated to advancing Catholic education in southeast Omaha"

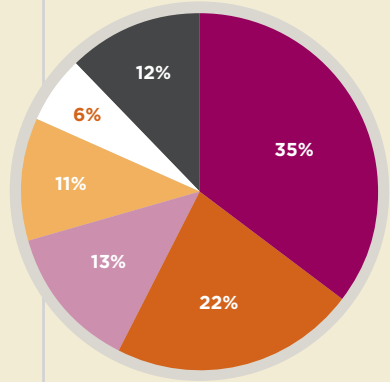
.....
- Mike Goetz,
Executive Director

OPERATING STATEMENT

for the Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/2020
Omaha Catholic School Consortium

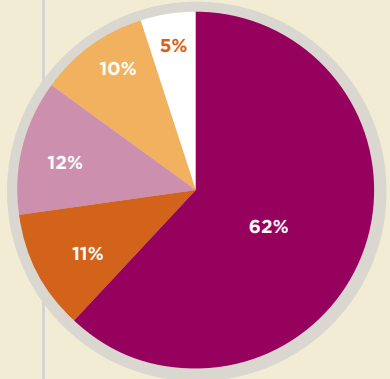
OPERATING REVENUES:

Tuition and Fees	\$3,421,039	35%
Parish Support	\$2,196,003	22%
Financial Aid & Scholarships - External Sources	\$1,276,158	13%
Auxiliary Programs	\$1,096,799	11%
* Preschool, Extended Care, Cafeteria & School Events		
Grant, Development & Fundraising Income	\$609,581	6%
* Grant - Federal Payroll Protection Program	\$1,183,381	12%
Total Operating Revenues	\$9,782,961	



OPERATING EXPENSES:

* Instructional	\$6,067,802	62%
General Administrative	\$1,048,126	11%
Plant Operations and Maintenance	\$1,169,804	12%
Auxiliary Programs	\$1,011,288	10%
Tuition Assistance - Internal	\$467,138	5%
Total Operating Expenses	\$9,764,158	



Net Revenue **\$18,803**

* PPP Funds were utilized to fund payroll as per federal guidelines to provide continued employment for school and Consortium staff. COVID Appeal funds and other donations are now available to fund continued operations.



ENROLLMENT AT A GLANCE

(based on 2019-2020
school year data)



44%

of Consortium students
receive tuition assistance
(all families pay a portion of
their child's tuition)

Consortium students
make up

13%

of all elementary school
enrollment across the
Archdiocese of Omaha



1,845 preschool -
eighth grade
students

53 percent
minority

89 percent
Catholic

46 percent of
our students
qualify for
free or
reduced
lunch

COST TO EDUCATE PER STUDENT (K-EIGHTH GRADE)

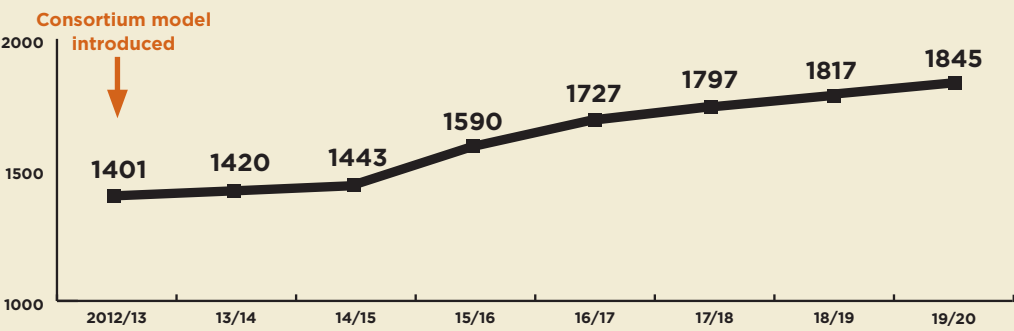
\$4,528

DOWN FROM \$4,602 LAST YEAR

The tuition we collect covers
approximately 43% of the cost to educate

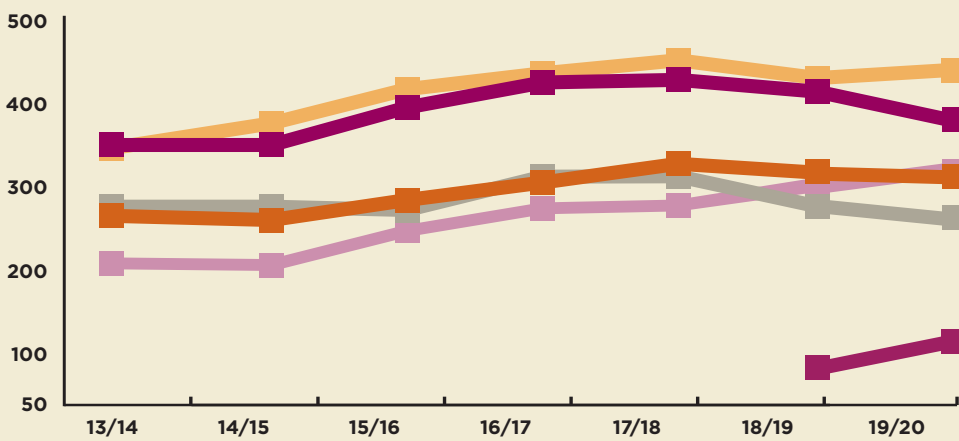
ENROLLMENT TRENDS

ENROLLMENT TOTALS - ALL CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS (PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 8TH GRADE)



BY SCHOOL

- Holy Cross
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- St. Bernadette
- Sts. Peter & Paul
- St. Thomas More
- Dual Language Academy



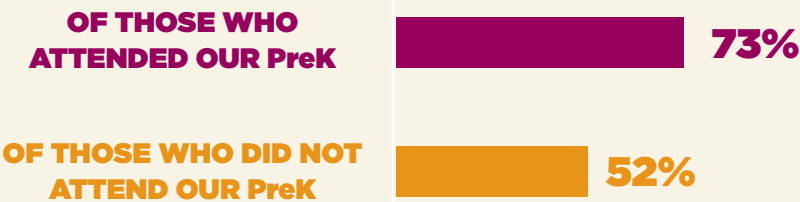
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

We believe a positive early childhood education will shape a child's attitude toward education, and we work to ensure a nurturing environment where young children can thrive.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ASSESSMENT RESULTS

STUDENTS WHO ARE ABOVE OR ON GRADE LEVEL



All Consortium schools have preschool and preK options. Two of our schools - **Holy Cross** and **St. Thomas More** - have a transitional kindergarten program to ensure kindergarten readiness. Transitional kindergarten is for students who meet age requirements for kindergarten but could benefit from one more year to develop the fundamental academic and social skills for future success in school.

"I love working with kids because they are the best teachers in life. Thank you for teaching me how to see this world through your eyes.

Amo trabajar con niños porque ellos son los mejores maestros de la vida. Gracias por enseñarme como ver este mundo a través de sus ojos."

Ms. Campos, Dual Language Academy teacher



OUR FOCUS REMAINS ON DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTION

STUDENT STANDOUTS

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020

Consortium schools graduated 141 eighth graders. In person, physically distanced and outdoor graduation ceremonies were held this summer. Schools found all sorts of ways to commemorate the milestone for students, including yard signs and special deliveries to their homes.

49 EIGHTH GRADERS RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS TO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS



Our deepest appreciation goes out to the Children's Scholarship Fund, one of our wonderful community partners, and to all who support their mission. Consortium students greatly benefit from CSF. Ezekiel Lam, a **St. Bernadette** student, was honored and highlighted in summer 2020 by the organization as a Tal & Mary Joy Anderson Rising Star. His story and successes were shared as part of CSF's annual luncheon.



Niara Berry-Bowie, from **Holy Cross**, received the Thelma M. Landstrom Scholarship to Marian, which is a four-year renewable full ride scholarship. She is pictured with Chris Nelson and Sara Hood.



Sts. Peter and Paul student Ximena Perez, pictured with Mr. Bauer and Fr. Jindra, also received the Thelma M. Landstrom Scholarship. We are proud that a majority of our graduates continue their education at local Catholic high schools.

OCSC ONLINE LEARNING ZOOMIN' THROUGH SPRING 2020

ZOOM, SEESAW, GOOGLE CLASSROOM, WORKSHEETS, OH MY!

The COVID-19 pandemic required our schools to reimagine how students could learn and succeed from home. More than 125 classroom teachers between the six schools transitioned to a remote environment with just about 48 hours to prepare.

"The efforts of our teachers proved each to be resilient and dedicated classroom leaders, as they adapted their curriculum and assignments to be accessed online or created packets of materials for our students to work at home," said Chris Nelson, outgoing executive director.

All throughout spring, the Consortium schools were able to provide continuous learning opportunities for our students so they were able to progress and excel in both their academic and spiritual lives.

During this time, we leaned heavily on our partnerships with parents.

Consortium educators went above and beyond to put in extra time and effort to reach out to families more than ever before. But we're truly so grateful for how those at home with our students stepped up.

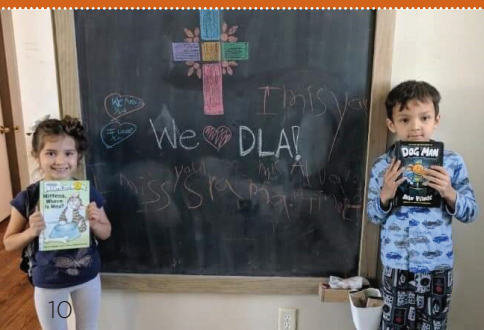
YOU DID IT!

These relationships between school and family allow for a more enhanced opportunity to understand the full education experience - the whole child approach that we take.

"We tried to pull in-school traditions into homes of families as much as possible so it felt familiar," said Lynn Schultz, principal at St. Bernadette.

Week-long virtual spirit weeks, daily prayers via video, car parades to see teachers (from a distance) - those were just some of the ways schools brought routine into the remote environment.

Jimmy and Maddie Costello, siblings who both attend **Our Lady of Lourdes**, had fun celebrating Virtual Spirit Week at home last Spring.

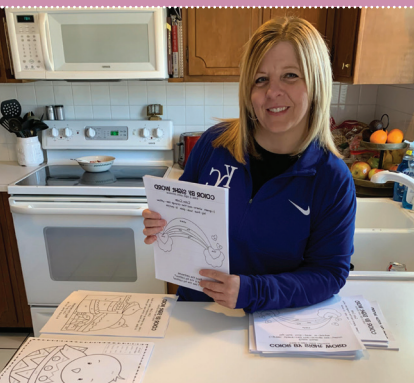
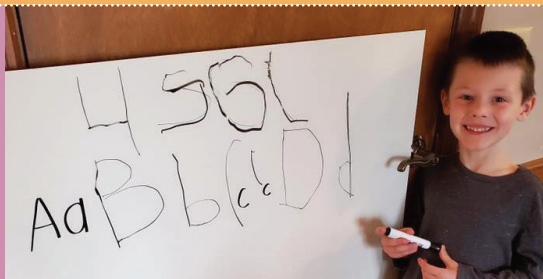


Children and families from the **Dual Language Academy** stayed positive and continued to connect with each other. ¡Todo saldrá bien! That's Spanish for "everything will be fine," a lesson not only in Spanish but in faith and resilience.



Student Dylan Marco makes the best of the time at home to practice spelling and reading. Look at his expression - we never tire of seeing the joy that comes from learning something new!

We can't help but smile either! We are so proud of how students remained dedicated to their classwork and to making the best of the situation last Spring.



Kindergarten teacher Patty Godek puts in extra hours ensuring her students had meaningful work to continue their learning and growth.

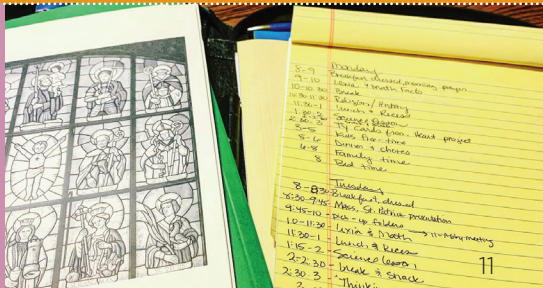
Sts. Peter and Paul teachers have a tradition to do a blessing for all eighth graders on their last day of school. What a special memory the class of 2020 will have, as they got to experience a video of the staff giving their blessing. Now they can rewatch it forever!



Wow! Check out these creations inspired by **St. Bernadette** Art Teacher Stacey Fanciullo. By the way, you can watch **St. Bernadette's** Virtual Art Show video, featuring impressive pieces from many creative and talented middle school students.



How many of us can relate to this **St. Thomas More** family's written schedule to keep kids on track while learning from home? Does it warm anyone else's heart to see so much focus for the day being on faith?



SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN SINCE INCEPTION OF OUR TOGETHER IN CHRIST ANNUAL FUND (2014-2015):

Ingrid Borghoff
Jane Carnazzo & Bob Stutzman
Mike and Suzie Lawler
Kevin and Denise McCoy
Meghan O'Brien Gerken
Joanne Stewart

Annual Fund:

Oscar and Erica Ahumada
Connie Aliano
Mary Annette Allen
Larry and Connie Almgren
Amanda Alvarado
Stephen and Liesl Alvey
Mary Joy Anderson
ANONYMOUS (24)
Beatriz and David Arellanes
Michelle and Jayme Arlen
Mike and Cathy Ashton
Ashley and Andrew Bauer
Fr. Frank Baumert
Daniel Beal
William and Norma Begley
Benny and Reba Benschoter
Donna Bishop
Elizabeth Blanco
Duane and Theresa Bland
Drew and Tammy Blossom
Mary Blossom
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Patricia Connelly
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Jennifer and Richard Cunningham
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Jim and Mary Czyz
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Gary and Christine Davis
Dave and Alison Dibelka
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Dan and Corinne Dineen
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Starlette Dossou
Kathy Dostal
Hillary and Anthony Douglas
Angela and Ralph Dovali
Laura Dussetschleger
Bill and Pat Dworak
Catherine Eberle
Melissa and Jeff Eckel
Mick Eglsaer
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Patrick Farho
Celeste Sully Feuerbach and Chris Feuerbach
Rita and John Fischer
Joseph and Phaedra Fisher
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Elaine Heath
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Harlan and Lucy Holmes
Sara and Jim Hood
Tamyra and William Hower
Rev. Norman Hunke
Mike and Lauren Hupp
Jim and Cindy Jandrain
Barbara Jarnecic
Chris and Jennifer Jerram
John and Nicole Jesse
Karen Johnson
Meg and Stephen Jones
Elizabeth and Kevin Joyce
Margo Juarez
Ursula Kalinowski
Ken Kalkowski
Joe and Sue Kawa
Robert Kelly

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

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Christopher Kenny
Knights of Columbus - Our Lady of Lourdes - Council 13080
Brad and Amy Knuth
Connie and Randy Kollasch
Wende and John Kotouc
Judi Koubsky
Rachel and Evan Kraft
Jared Kreher
Bill and Alicia Kroupa
Kristy and Bob Krupa
Antoinette Kuhry
Herbert and Charon Kupfer
Judie and Willard Kyler
LAM Support Services
John and Nancy Langenfeld
Brian Laurenzo
Michael and Suzie Lawler
Katie and Brian LeFebvre
Rex and Patricia Leibert
Agnes and Luke Lenagh
Rev. Ryan P. Lewis
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Edward Lindsay
Samantha and Jake Ludacka
Joseph Lynch
John and Carol Maginn
Maureen and Dan Maher

Mammel Family Foundation
Mike and Kari Mansour
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Nicole and Kenneth Mattson
Mary May
John Mayhan
Emily McArdle
Ed and Joan McCarthy
Mike and Nancy McCarthy
Kevin and Dee McCoy
Michael McMillan
Colleen McQuillan-Johnson
Mary Mendenhall (dec.)
Shirley Mendenhall
Tom and Annie Messersmith
Mimi and Matt Miller
Kay and Jack Monzingo
Mora Tactics
Monica Mora-Handlos and David Handlos
Mary Corinne Morinelli
Mary and Thomas Morrissey
Mike and Sigrid Moylan
Richard and Annette Murphy
Cole and Katie Naughton
Chris and Scott Nelson
Robert and Rose Nelson
Roy and Lucy Neneman

Mark and Kathleen Niebauer
Susan Noler
Notre Dame Sisters
Rev. James Novotny
Meghan O'Brien Gerken
Juliann and John O'Connor
Michael Odorisio
Donald and Margaret Ojeski
Our Lady of Lourdes - St. Adalbert Catholic Church
Our Lady of Lourdes Booster Club
Our Lady of Lourdes Home & School Association
Arman and Cathie Pajnigar
Julia and Jeffrey Palzer
Vicky and Paul Parr
Bernadette Parys
Bill and Pamela Paschang
Manuela Pena
Chris and Al Peters
Kari Pierson
Rev. John Pietramale
Randy Placek
Kris and Daniel Placzek
Jennifer and Jeff Poepppe
Matt Pohren
Ranny and Herb Povondra
Jennifer Prososki

OMAHAGIVES! 2020

All gifts received helped provide increased tuition assistance opportunities for our families



\$30,450
FROM 173 DONORS



ALL 6
SCHOOLS
PARTICIPATED



83%
GROWTH IN
DOLLARS RAISED
FROM LAST YEAR



\$20,000
MATCHING GIFT FUND FROM A GROUP OF
GENEROUS DONORS, WHICH ALLOWED
ALL DONATIONS TO RECEIVE A 1:1 MATCH

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

Georgeann Prusa
Wilbur and Patricia Pupkes
Doug and Margaret Quinn
Priscilla Quinn
Mark and Bernadette Radachi
Kori and Eric Radloff
Corey Randone
Anne and Stephen Raynor
Mary Pat Raynor
Patty and Kerry Rezek
Dorothy and James Riha
Suzanne and Scott Riley
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Maureen and Jon Roberts
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Grace Short
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Carol Slaven
Cindy Smith
James Smith
William and Mary Smith
Lynn and Jerry Sobczyk
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Sue and Nick Steier
Joanne Stewart
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Kate and Chris Svendsen
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William and Sharon Veys
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Stacey Weinrich
Herman and Ellen Weist
Holly Wheeler
John and Kathleen Wilhelm
JoAnn and Alex Willits
Rose Marie and Bernard Wilson
Doug and Elaine Wilwerding
Terry and Mary Zach
Lori and Michael Zadina
Jennifer Zielinski
Rob and Katie Zimmerman
Rev. Carl Zoucha

Grants:

Archdiocese of Omaha
Archdiocese of Omaha – Ignite
the Faith Excellence Grants
Cox Communications
Koch Foundation

Corporate Matching Gifts:

U.S. Bank
Union Pacific Railroad
Wells Fargo Bank

Designated and In-Kind Gifts:

Associated Fire Protection
Marcie Brousek
Anonymous (2)
Patrick and Mandi Foster
Red D Plumbing
STM Wings

Parishes:

Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Adalbert

Named Scholarship or Endowment Programs Benefitting Our Students:

Rita T. Starr Memorial Scholarship
Cupich Family
Children's Scholarship Fund
Latino Catholic Scholarship Fund of Omaha
Bishop Milone Memorial Scholarship
John F. and Anne Marie Daly

Tributes:

In Memory of Tom and Ann Kinsella

Anonymous

In Memory of David J. Pfeffer

Anonymous
Richard Anderl
John Begley
Peggy and Edward Bonach
Susan and Steven Bruce
Connie and Charles Clifford
Terrance DeWald
Michelle and Jeffrey Lebens
John and Mary Longo
Derek McClain
Paula and Kurtis Meyer
William J. Moeschler
Elizabeth Page
Betty and Jack Pfeffer
Ann and Jim Ponec
Psychiatric-Mental Health Care, P.C.
Patricia Regan
Margie and Ryan Schaaek
Barbara and David Tvrdik
Jay and Amy Vankat
Bernard Venditte
Wunderman Thompson Data
Jeff Zorn



**WE'RE
GRATEFUL**

**We're grateful
to all 13 of our
supporting
priests and to
parishioners at
all 16 supporting
parishes.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE SUPPORTERS

GIFTS PROVIDED TO THE OMAHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL CONSORTIUM FROM JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

In Memory of Robert Nussrallah

Anonymous
Barb and Jim Farho
Lisa and Scott Gallagher
Pamela and Angelo John
Ruth and Carl Johnson
Susan and Roy Kessell
Jennifer and Joe Larsen
Mary Anne and Matthew Mullen
Helen and Rodney Peyton
Kathryn and Merrill Rose
Christine and Jeffrey Spencer
Arlene and Kirk Winkler

In Memory of Lucille Heng

O'Malley Drilling, Inc.

In Honor of Cardinal Blase Cupich

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In Honor of Msgr. James Gilg

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In Memory of Dorothy Olechoski

Anne and Dan Miner
Patti and Matt Willis

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hug

Molly and Ray Swiercek

In Memory of Mrs. Mildred Bieker

Molly and Ray Swiercek

In Memory of James Sobczyk

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Mary and Robert Gonderinger
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Mary Ann Harding

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Gloria and Thomas LaCrosse
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Julie and Matthew Novak
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Patricia and Louis Riedmann
Paulette and Douglas Rourke
Emily and Timothy Sass
Ann and Richard Schenck
Ruth Ann and Michael Sibilia
Rebecca and Michael Sluyter
Pamela and Robert Sondag
Judy and Bob Wichert
Terry and Mary Zach

In Memory of Robert and Marie Connelly

Sr. Corrine Connelly

In Memory of Philip Carbonell

Andrea Carbonell and Daniel Fuller

In Honor of Patrick and Thomas Skradski

Don and Kim Murrell

In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Fogarty and Wieczorek Families

Maureen Roberts

In Honor of Yazzy Diaz

Candice Arzola & Jose Diaz

In Honor of Taj Rivera

Susan Kneiss

In Honor of Bev Hagerty

Alison and Dave Dibelka

In Honor of Gloria DeJoy

Catherine Eberle

In Memory of Deacon Jesus Herrera

Isela and Noe Gonzalez

In Memory of Jacob Korth

Bernice and John Fuchs

In Honor of Skyler Radloff

Trudy Else

In Honor of Tammy Blossom

Toody and Kody Moffatt

In Memory of Bud and Tina May

Mary May

In Memory of Jack and Rose Marie Vankat

Jackie and Richard Buchta

In Honor of Kai Berglund

Allen and Jamie Berglund

In Memory of Todd Nystrom

Kelly Nystrom

In Honor of Michael Ellis Roberts

Marilyn Hammond

In Memory of Lynne M. Dolejs

Gerald Dolejs

In Memory of Thomas Schrack

Anonymous

In Honor of Luka Vanek

Mark Vanek & Jorden Brooks



**125 ALUMNI GIFTS
REPRESENTING 10
SCHOOLS, TOTALING**

\$71,955

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**MAKE A GIFT ONLINE AT OMAHACSC.ORG/DONATE OR
VIA CHECK TO OUR MAILING ADDRESS LISTED ON THE BACK**

FAITH FORMATION

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH - EQUIPPING DISCIPLES

We continue to focus on providing encounters with Christ for our staff, students and families. Due to COVID-19, First Holy Communions and First Reconciliations were postponed, and May Crownings were either postponed or converted to a virtual format.

While the pandemic created a change in how we delivered upon that promise of Catholic education, we ensured our students experienced fellowship and Christ's love in a virtual environment.

Besides Masses, rosaries and other prayer services and assemblies, our school communities each came together in daily prayer. Gathering together in prayer created a stronger community as all support one another's intentions and needs.



Fr. Carl Salanitro celebrated Confirmation with eighth graders from **Holy Cross**. Congratulations to these students and all who were confirmed in late July. May they continue to be open to the Holy Spirit and share the gifts received from this sacrament. We cannot wait to see what the Lord has in store for you.



Socially distanced and even virtual May crowning events were held around our schools. Here, then-eighth-grader Kenzie Hughes placed the crown on Mary at **St. Bernadette**. SBS created and shared a slideshow in her honor and did at-home May Crownings of the Mary statues in family homes and gardens.



Sts. Peter and Paul celebrated Día de los Reyes Magos where children in many Spanish speaking countries get Christmas gifts, commemorating the gifts that the three wise men brought at the Nativity. John Clark, former P.E. teacher, principal Andrew Bauer and Mr. Alfredo Jara, school parent, helped distribute candy bars for the occasion. The costumes were hand sewn by Torres Orozco, a SPP mother.

"The learning experience here is enveloped in faith and tradition. There is no other place like it. We are truly blessed at SBS."

-Becky McIntyre, Teacher

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

This past spring, we faced a growing challenge as we worked to keep our teachers and staff employed while the families we served faced their own significant economic challenges. These community champions stepped up and answered our call for assistance in a time of crisis.

COVID APPEAL - RAISED \$128,350

Jim and Jean Ambrose
Anonymous (3)
Marilyn and Jerry Buresh
Dick and Mary Jo Coffey
Mike and Sue Dobel
Dan and Denise Drvol
Johna and Mark Duren
Bernadette and Paul Esposito
Ed and Nancy Fitzgerald
Calvin German
Ron and Jean Gordon
Dan and Michelle Grzywa
Tom and Cheri Hassenstab
Steve and Mary Pat Heck
Mary Katherine and Bill Helget
Mike and Beth Jareske
James Kineen

Bill and Kathy Kizer
Michael and Suzie Lawler
John and Carol Maginn
Craig and Brenda Martin
Jim and Ann McGill
Patty and Paul Mendlik
Toody and Kody Moffatt
Marlo and Chuck Monico
Brent and Michele Pohlman
Duane and Kathleen Polodna
Anne and Stephen Raynor
Robert Reed
Don and Jean Schaefer
Scott and Colleen Schmidt
Bill and Sherry Wachtler
Lynn and David Weist
Doug and Elaine Wilwerding

OUR SUPPORTING PARISHES:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary –
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Holy Ghost Catholic Church

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Adalbert
Catholic Church

St. Andrew Kim Taegon Catholic
Community

St. Bernadette Catholic Church

St. Bridget – St. Rose Catholic Church

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

St. Mary Catholic Church

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

St. Peter Catholic Church

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

MEET MRS. ASHLEY JENSEN, PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

If the Jensen last name sounds familiar, it may be because Ashley's husband, mother-in-law and sister-in-law all work for different Catholic schools in the Omaha Metro area.

Her twin daughters also attend a Catholic school.

"As you may be able to tell by my family's involvement in Catholic education, we are really passionate about Catholic schools."



"Personally, I find it a true mission and calling to help students and colleagues develop a personal relationship with God. I actually consider it some of the most important work anyone on this earth can do."

Prior to becoming a teacher, Ashley grew up in northwest Iowa. She graduated from Briar Cliff University and has now nearly completed her Masters from Creighton University in both of the areas of Early Childhood and English as a Second Language (ESL).

She will be the only teacher in the Archdiocese of Omaha that we're aware of with these advanced degrees.

After teaching kindergarten for a few years at **Our Lady of Lourdes**, Ashley was asked to step into a prekindergarten teaching position. While hesitant, she accepted - and she thrived! This was around the same time the archdiocese announced Ignite the Faith grant funds were available to help teachers continue their education.

"I was starting to see God's plan for me"

"I was starting to see God's plan for me," she said. "I found myself excited to learn more about the diversity and equity in education for our littlest learners. It is important for us, as educators and parents, to realize that a child's purpose is not to be grown up. A child's purpose is to be a child. They are fully made in God's image, just as they are. Giving my students that due time, the respect for their growth and development as God intended, at their rate of discovery, is how I choose to serve. I really didn't see this passion until I started my degree work."

She said this has been a process through which she can now look back and see God's hand guiding her.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

"I learned more about child development and the importance of a child's family, community and past experiences impacting the learning process and vision of the world. I now feel called to use my newfound knowledge to advocate for early learners, and also to encourage other educators in my role as a Lighthouse coach for the archdiocese."



More Q&A with Ashley Jensen available on our blog: omahacsc.org/news

Flip back to page 8 for data about how impactful our Early Childhood Education programs are for students. Preschool, prekindergarten and transitional kindergarten classes at Consortium schools not only prepare students for their next step, but the staff at our schools instill the values that are important for parents.

OCSC CARES



THE CONSORTIUM VALUES ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES.

During the 2019-2020 school year, a new Parent Speaker Series launched as a way to provide parents with additional tools related to parenthood. Three free events were hosted at various Consortium schools and topics included:

- **Keeping RELATE in your parent-child Relationship**
- **Early Childhood Literacy - How to Maximize Reading time with your Children at Home**
- **Ways to Bring Faith into your Home Life**

THESE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE LARGER COMMUNITY AND YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR VISIT FOR THE 2020-2021 EVENT DATES.

@OMAHACATHOLICSCHOOLS Consortium

ADMINISTRATORS

THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN OUR ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS.

We provide a faith-based education that places emphasis on learning while making the most of every dollar - investing in our students, teachers, communities and facilities.

We are deeply appreciative of these school administrators, as well as the dedicated educators and support staff at our schools. All spring and summer long, our educators collaborated via virtual professional development to discuss and develop new and best practices for instruction as well as reopening and remote learning plans.

Special thanks also to all at the Archdiocese of Omaha Chancery offices, who also support the operational needs of our schools each year.

We maintain a strong Catholic identity that guides our actions. Our dedicated educators make a difference in our students' lives both inside and outside the classrooms, raising the next generation of Omaha's community leaders.



Sara Hood
Interim Principal,
Holy Cross School



Lisa Linquist
Principal, Our Lady of
Lourdes School



Amanda Alvarado
Principal, Dual Language
Academy



Lynn Schultz
Principal, St. Bernadette
School



Andrew Bauer
Principal, Sts. Peter and
Paul School



Gary Davis
Principal, St. Thomas
More School

WE WELCOMED TWO NEW PRINCIPALS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR:

James Laville at Holy Cross and Angie Gonzales-Smith at the Dual Language Academy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Archbishop
George J.
Lucas**



**John
Maginn**



**Dr. Sarah
Kottich**



**Tammy
Blossom**



**Jay
Vankat**



**Chris
Nelson**



**Dr. Michael
Ashton**



**Shannan
Brommer**

Several new members joined our board in July 2020, including new executive director Mike Goetz, new superintendent Vickie Kauffold, John Wilhelm and Rev. John Pietramale from **Our Lady of Lourdes**.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CURRENT
BOARD: VISIT [OMAHACSC.ORG/BOARD](https://omahacsc.org/board)**

"It's an honor to be part of the Consortium. I like the commitment demonstrated by every member of the Dual Language Academy staff."

- Lucia Barrantes, staff

STAFF

Just as we teach Consortium students to work hard, love God and take good care of each other, that's what our office team does day in and day out to support our school leaders.

Omaha Catholic School Consortium Staff

Michael Goetz	Executive Director
Chris Nelson	Education Director
Abby Skradski	Advancement Director
Chris Feuerbach	Business Manager
Dayana Rodriguez	Business Office
Olga Casillas	Business Office
Sara Hood	Technology Integration Specialist
Blair Bonczynski	Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Lucia Barrantes	Executive Assistant



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

KAREN GORACKE

SCHOOLS & YEARS ATTENDED:

Grades 1-8 at **St. Bernadette**

Grades 9-12 at **Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School**

ABOUT KAREN:

Karen Goracke is the President & CEO of Borsheims, a member of the Berkshire Hathaway family of companies. She oversees the jewelry, watch and fine gifts store and its global reach, managing hundreds of employees and leading the store as it enters its 150th year in business.

Goracke is an industry leader, serving on the Board of Directors of several local and industry organizations. She and her husband Bruce live in Omaha. Their three sons are all graduates of Catholic schools in Omaha.



Q&A with Karen

.....

WHY DO YOU LOVE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS?



I was so fortunate to learn hard work and discipline as a part of everyday life. The teaching staff expected a lot from us – and we worked hard to meet those expectations. I had so many great teachers and mentors who incorporated a strong sense of faith with a challenging curriculum.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL EXPERIENCE?

The friends I made 40+ years ago are still great friends! It is special to know someone throughout your entire life. We all have busy lives, but we make time to stay connected.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU HAVE FOR A STUDENT/FAMILY CONSIDERING A CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

I loved attending Catholic schools as a child, and I loved it just as much on the other end as a parent. The education itself is great, but the focus on serving others and being grateful – those are lessons that have really stuck with me and my boys. I also love the community that develops from Catholic schools. We have been so lucky to have developed a village of people around us, who helped to nurture our learning, care about us as people and ensure we succeed in life.

HOW DID YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW?

I oversee all aspects of what we do at Borsheims. It's a good fit because I've done a lot of those jobs myself. I started at Borsheims as a sales associate in the gift department, then worked as inventory supervisor, watch buyer, jewelry buyer and overall merchandise director before becoming President & CEO. Through it all, I was learning –something that I grew to love during my time at **St. Bernadette** and **Gross Catholic**. The teachers at both schools really focused on developing a love of learning, in addition to being of strong character and having compassion for others. Those are skills and traits that are a part of my everyday life and I am so thankful for **St. Bernadette** and **Gross** for helping to develop them early in my life.



CAN YOU TELL US A UNIQUE FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I sit on the Board of Directors for a diamond mine in Northwest Territories in Canada. I was able to tour the mine last summer. It was incredible to see the process involved in finding these rare beautiful stones.

"We are totally trusting the Lord at this time of crisis. We know that God will provide for us, for school families who believe in what we are doing in our Catholic schools, and also for our many generous benefactors who see that their generosity is making a difference in the lives of those students most in need. Your gifts help our families and keep the mission of our Consortium schools alive and grounded as a beacon of hope for struggling families."

- Rev. John Pietramale, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes/St. Adalbert



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for daily updates from around our schools



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CONSORTIUM

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Phone: 402.590.2810

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